

## DECISION OF RECORD

**DECISION:** It is my decision to authorize the April 2001 Draft Lease Sale. Therefore, a total of eight (8) parcels plus three (3) modified parcels shall be set forth for inclusion in the competitive lease sale. In as much as the lease sale is going to be implemented, lease stipulations are hereby attached to certain lease parcels and until subsequent land use projects (e.g., oil and gas operations and other related activities) are proposed, an environmental assessment would be completed on all future lease actions. The following lease parcels are approved for the April 2001 Draft Lease Sale:

- 1) 200107010 2) 200107012 3) 200107060 4) 200107062  
5) 200107069 6) 200107070 7) 200107071 8) 200107072

**Modified Parcels:**

- 9) 200107058 Section 1; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, S½N½, S½  
10) 200107059 Section 11; All  
11) 200107068 Section 18; S½SE¼

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:** This action is addressed in the Roswell Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 1997. I have reviewed the NEPA analysis described in the **OPTIONAL PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**, including the explanation and resolution of any potentially significant environment impacts resulting from the lease sale. In accordance with the finding of no significant impacts, I have decided that an EIS is not required on this action. I have determined that the lease sale will not have any significant impacts on the human environment.

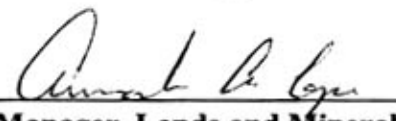
**Mitigation Measures/Remarks:**

I am certain that the lease sale will not adversely affect the federal mineral lands involved, as long as the specific lease sale stipulations are attached to the lease parcels and the surface protection requirements are attached to all subsequent actions resulting from this lease sale.

The Roswell Field Office; Surface Use and Occupancy Requirements, Conditions Of Approval, and the Roswell Field Office's Special Leasing Stipulations which are in place at the New Mexico State Office, will provide adequate mitigation for the lease sale parcels. The Roswell Field Office surface protection requirements, as well as, the mitigation measures required for oil and gas operations on federal leases, shall be attached to all subsequent applications.

**RATIONAL FOR DECISION:** The decision to proceed with the lease sale will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation of federal mineral lands. The lease sale is in conformance with the Roswell RMP, approved on October 1997.

**COMPLIANCE and MONITORING:** A compliance and monitoring plan is not necessary for this action at this time. However, compliance and monitoring plans will be attached, implemented, and executed, upon approval of subsequent actions.

**Authorized Official Signature:**   
Larry D. Bray, Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals

**Date:** 4/30/01



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Roswell Field Office  
2909 West Second Street  
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

### Review of April 2001 Oil and Gas Draft Lease Sale Notice

The April 2001 Oil and Gas Draft Lease Sale Notice was reviewed by the Roswell Field Office specialist(s) and the examinations that were conducted are representative of the lease sale consultation on environmental concerns. However, the critical elements and affected resources will be analyzed further on a case-by-case basis upon subsequent lease actions that would be proposed in the future. The following critical elements and affected resources would be analyzed for each individual project resulting from future lease actions:

#### Critical Elements

Air Quality  
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's)  
Cultural Resources  
Farmlands, Prime/Unique  
Floodplains  
Native American Religious Concerns  
Minority/Low-Income Populations/Community  
Threatened or Endangered Species (T&E Plants & Animals)  
Wastes, Hazardous/Solid  
Water Quality (Drinking/Ground)  
Wetlands and Riparian Zones  
Wild & Scenic Rivers  
Wilderness

#### Affected Resources

Access/Transportation  
Cave/Karst Resources  
Lands/Realty/ROW  
Livestock Grazing  
Mineral Material  
Mining Claims  
Outdoor Recreation  
Soils and Watershed  
Vegetation  
Visual Resources  
Wildlife Habitat

#### Resource Specialist Signature

Archeologist: Pat Flannery Date: 4/27/01  
Environmental Protection Specialist: Richard Hill Date: 4/27/01  
Geologist: Samuel Johnson Date: 4/27/01  
Hydrologist: HP Date: 4/26/01  
Range Specialist: John A. Spin Date: 4/27/01  
Realty Specialist: Steve Condon Date: 4-27-01  
Recreation Specialist: Jeann Ballant Date: 4-27-01  
Wildlife Specialist: HP Date: 4/26/01



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Roswell Field Office  
2909 West Second Street  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
3100 (060)

Memorandum

To: RFO Field Office Manager  
From: Assistant Field Manager, Lands and Minerals  
Subject: Review of the April 2001 Oil and Gas Draft Lease Sale Notice

The twenty (20) lease parcels proposed for inclusion in the April 2001 Competitive Oil and Gas Draft Lease Sale have been analyzed for potential impacts on resources. The following break down of the proposed lease parcels has occurred:

**A. Eight (8) parcels in their entirety are approved for the April 2001 competitive oil and gas lease sale:**

1)	200107010	-	1,881.250 acres	
2)	200107012	-	120.000 acres	
3)	200107060	-	1,040.000 acres	W/stipulation SENM-LN-1
4)	200107062	-	640.000 acres	W/stipulation SENM-S-22
5)	200107069	-	640.000 acres	W/stipulation SENM-S-22
6)	200107070	-	480.000 acres	W/stipulation SENM-S-22
7)	200107071	-	440.000 acres	W/stipulation SENM-S-22
8)	200107072	-	<u>520.000 acres</u>	W/stipulation SENM-S-22
			5,761.250 acres	

Eight (8) parcels totaling 5,761.250 acres are approved for the lease sale.

**B. Two (2) parcels were modified to protect the Overflow Wetlands, ACEC. The following parcels were modified to exclude certain sections and subdivisions permanently from future lease sales;**

1) 200107058      1,937.880 acres

**Remove permanently from lease sales:** 1,295.480 acres  
Section 3; S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 4; Lots 1,2,3, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 9; N $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$

**Leaseable Minerals:** 642.400 acres

Section 1; Lots 1,2,3,4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$

2) 200107059          1,200.000 acres

**Remove permanently from lease sales:** 560.000 acres

Section 10; E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$

**Leaseable Minerals:** 640.000 acres

Section 11; All

**C. One (1) parcel was modified to protect the Salt Lake Playa. The following parcel was modified to exclude certain subdivisions permanently from future lease sales;**

1) 200107068          288.700 acres

**Remove permanently from lease sales:** 208.700 acres

Section 18; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, & NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

**Leaseable Minerals:** 80.000 acres

Section 18; S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

**D. Until further notice, four (4) parcels in their entirety were pulled from the lease sale to protect the Lesser Prairie Chicken WHA. The Lesser Prairie Chicken status is currently warranted for listing as threatened or endangered, but precluded by other higher priority species.**

1) 200107064	1,280.000 acres
2) 200107065	320.000 acres
3) 200107066	320.000 acres
4) 200107067	<u>600.000 acres</u>
	2,520.000 acres

Until further notice, a total of 2,520.000 acres are removed from future lease sales.

**E. Until further notice, two (2) parcels in their entirety are pulled from the lease sale, due to the proposed listing of the Mountain Plover as threatened. One (1) parcel was pulled, due to the proposed listing of the Mountain Plover habitat and to protect the Pecos River slope breaks.**

1) 200107008	1,806.960 acres
2) 200107009	1,253.500 acres
3) 200107011	<u>800.000 acres</u>
	3,860.460 acres

Until further notice, a total of 3,860.460 acres are removed from future lease sales.

**F. Until further notice, one (1) parcel in its entirety, is pulled from the lease sale, due to potential conflicts with the National Guard, Week End Training Site (WETS).**

1) 200107056            1,278.800 acres

**G. One (1) parcel is pulled from the lease sale to protect the Overflow Wetlands, ACEC, Bottomless Lakes State Park and the Bison Kill Site (Arch). The following parcel shall be pulled permanently from future lease sales:**

1) 200107057            627.920 acres

#### **SUMMARY:**

A. Eight (8) parcels (**5,761.250 acres**) in their entirety are approved for the April 2001 draft lease sale.

B. Three (3) parcels (**3,426.580 acres**) were modified. The exclusion of **2,064.180 acres** are permanently removed from future lease sales to protect the Overflow Wetlands, ACEC and the Salt Lake Playa. **The remaining 1,362.400 acres are leaseable acreage and will be included in the April 2001 draft lease sale.**

C. Four (4) parcels (**2,520.000 acres**) in their entirety, were pulled from the April 2001 draft lease sale to protect the Lesser Prairie Chicken WHA.

D. Three (3) parcels (**3,860.460 acres**) in their entirety, were pulled from the April 2001 draft lease sale, to protect the Mountain Plover and the Pecos River breaks.

E. One (1) parcel (**1,278.800 acres**) in its entirety, was pulled from the April 2001 draft lease sale, because of potential conflicts with the National Guard WETS Site.

F. One (1) parcel (**627.920 acres**) in its entirety, was pulled from the April 2001 draft lease sale, to protect the Overflow Wetlands, ACEC, Bottomless Lakes State Park and the archaeological site known as the Bison Kill Site.

#### **TOTALS:**

**20 proposed parcels = 17,475.010 original acres.**

**8 parcels plus the 3 modified parcel acreage = 7,123.650 leasable acres.**

**9 parcels plus the 3 modified parcel acreage = 10,351.360 acres are removed permanently or until further notice from future lease sales.**



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**OPTIONAL PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**  
April 2001 COMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE  
EA NUMBER: NM-060-01-096

BLM Office: Roswell Field Office

Proposed Action Title/Type: April 2001 Draft Lease Sale

Location of Proposed action: Roswell, New Mexico

Existing EA/EIS Review:

The proposed action is addressed in the Roswell Resource Area Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, January 1997.

This EA/EIS has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it covers the proposed action:

1. The proposed action is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing document.
2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document.
3. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.
4. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different than those identified in the existing document.
5. Public involvement in the previous analysis provides appropriate coverage for the proposed action.

Other related documents:

The proposed action does not conflict with any known state or local planning, ordinance, or zoning and is consistent with bureau policy, regulations, and existing planning documents.



## Need for Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management is required by law, regulation, and policy to lease minerals unless the proposed lease would not be in the public interest because it would be incompatible with current uses or other values which are worthy of being preserved. There is no known opposition to the proposed action that would preclude the competitive lease sale

## Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Office proposes to offer for lease certain federal mineral lands that are managed by the Roswell Field Office. The manner the lease sale would be conducted is by competitive sale of federal mineral lands that would be used for the development of oil and gas resources.

## Affected Environment:

The affected environment is discussed in the Roswell Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, BLM-NM-PT-97-003-1610.

## Description of Impacts on Critical/Other Elements of the Affected Environment:

There are no known environmental impacts that would cause an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources. There are no prevailing impacts that would affect this action at this time. However, the lease sale parcels were not evaluated for specific projects and the impacts that could result from successive actions. Utilizing the Roswell Approved Resource Management Plan, the lease sale parcels were reviewed for potential impacts that were minimized by the screening criteria used for the appraisal of the lands involved. Until specific land use projects (e.g., oil and gas operations and other related activities) are proposed the following thirteen (13) critical elements and eleven (11) affected resources would be analyzed for each individual action:

### Critical Elements

Air Quality  
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's)  
Cultural Resources  
Farmlands, Prime/Unique  
Floodplains  
Native American Religious Concerns  
Minority/Low-Income Populations/Community  
Threatened or Endangered Species (Plants & Animals)  
Wastes, Hazardous/Solid  
Water Quality (Drinking/Ground)  
Wetlands and Riparian Zones  
Wild & Scenic Rivers  
Wilderness

### Affected Resources

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Lands/Reality/ROW  
Livestock Grazing  
Mineral Material  
Mining Claims  
Outdoor Recreation  
Soils and Watershed  
Vegetation  
Visual Resources  
Wildlife Habitat

## Description of Mitigating Measures and Residual Impacts:

The lease sale will be mitigated by attaching the Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulation(s) to the lease parcel(s). The Roswell Field Office, Surface Use and Occupancy Requirements, Conditions Of Approval, and the Roswell Field Office's Special Leasing Stipulations, which are in place at the New Mexico State Office, will provide adequate mitigation for all lease applications.

Direct, indirect, cumulative and residual impacts of leasing and lease development are generally described in the Roswell RMP/EIS. However, an environmental assessment will be prepared on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of future actions.


## Remarks:

Parcels: 8; Acres: 5,761.250 & Modified Parcels: 3; Acres: 1,362.400 = **7,123.650 leasable acres.**

Parcels: 9; Acres: 8,287.180 & Modified Parcels: 3; Acres: 2,064.180 = **10,351.360 acres removed permanently or until further notice from future lease sales.**

Persons/Agencies Consulted: None

Preparer: RICHARD G. HILL  
Environmental Protection Specialist

  
Signature

Date: 4/27/01